R^3 and R^4 are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug.

176. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

177. (New) The compound of claim 176, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

178. (New) The compound of claim 176, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

179. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

A1 cont'd

180. (New) The compound of claim 179, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

181. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

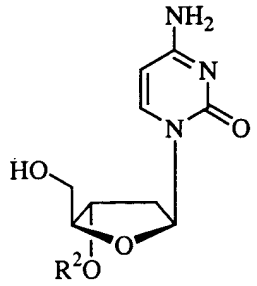
182. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is dimethylamino-methylene.

183. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-alkyl.

184. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-methyl.

185. (New) The compound of claim 175, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is L-valinyl.

186. (New) A compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug.

187. (New) The compound of claim 186, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

188. (New) The compound of claim 187, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

189. (New) The compound of claim 187, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

190. (New) The compound of claim 186, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

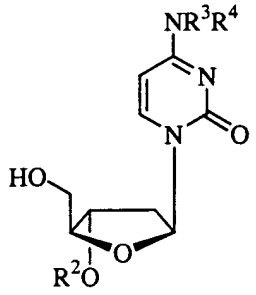
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

191. (New) The compound of claim 190, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

192. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene (in particular, dimethylaminomethylene), CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-

alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

193. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

194. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 193, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

195. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 193, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

196. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;
R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and
R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

A'l cont'd

197. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 196, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

198. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

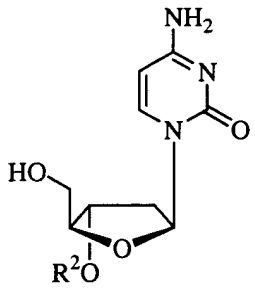
199. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is dimethylamino-methylene.

200. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-alkyl.

201. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-methyl.

202. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 192, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is L-valinyl.

203. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug;

with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

204. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 203, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

205. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 204, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

206. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 204, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

207. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 203, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

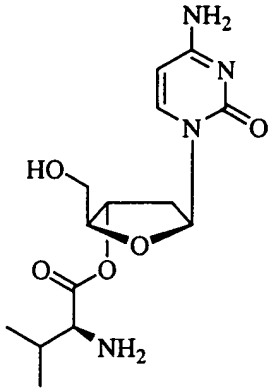
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein, as in proline, R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

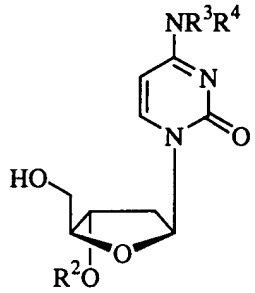
208. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 207, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

209. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

210. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, dialkylaminoalkylene (in particular, dimethylaminomethylene), CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug;

in combination with one or more anti-hepatitis B virus agents;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

211. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

212. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 211, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

213. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 211, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

214. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

215. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 214, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

216. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

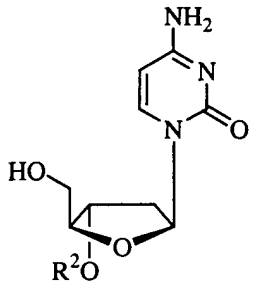
217. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is dimethylamino-methylene.

218. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-alkyl.

219. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is CO-methyl.

220. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 210, wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is L-valinyl.

221. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective anti-HBV amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, CO-aryloxyalkyl, CO-substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfonyl, amino acid residue, mono, di, or triphosphate, or a phosphate prodrug;

in combination with one or more anti-hepatitis B virus agents;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

222. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 221, wherein R^2 is CO-alkyl.

223. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 222, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-methyl.

224. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 222, wherein the CO-alkyl is CO-propyl.

225. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 221, wherein R^2 is an amino acid residue of the formula $C(O)C(R^8)(R^9)(NR^{10}R^{11})$, wherein

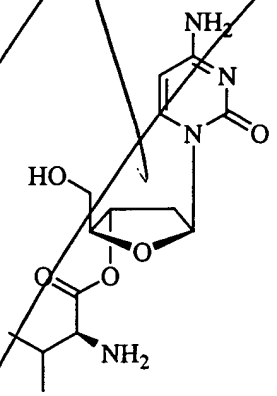
R^8 is the side chain of an amino acid and wherein R^8 can optionally be attached to R^{10} to form a ring structure; or alternatively, R^8 is an alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

226. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 225, wherein R^2 is L-valinyl.

227. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with one or more anti-hepatitis B virus agents; optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

A1 cont'd

228. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 210-227, wherein the anti-hepatitis B virus agent is a β-L-deoxyribonucleoside.

229. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 228, wherein the β-L-deoxyribonucleoside is selected from the group consisting of β-L-deoxyribothymidine (β-L-dT), β-L-deoxyribocytosine (β-L-dC), β-L-deoxyribouridine (β-L-dU), β-L-deoxyriboadenine (β-L-dA), β-L-deoxyriboguanine (β-L-dG) or β-L-deoxyribo-inosine (β-L-dI).

230. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 228, wherein the β-L-deoxyribonucleoside is β-L-deoxyribothymidine (β-L-dT).

231. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 210-227, wherein the anti-hepatitis B virus agent is selected from the group consisting of entecivir, cis-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane; (-)-cis-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane; (-)-cis-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC); β-D-dioxolanyl-guanine (DXG), β-D-dioxolanyl-2,6-diaminopurine (DAPD), β-D-dioxolanyl-6-chloropurine (ACP), L-FDDC (5-fluoro-3'-thia-2',3'-dideoxycytidine), carbovir, interferon, penciclovir, famciclovir, L-FMAU, BMS-200475, bis pom PMEA (adefovir, dipivoxil), lobucavir, ganciclovir, or ribavirin.

232. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

233. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

234. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

235. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

236. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

237. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 192-231, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.